

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
SPARTANBURG DIVISION

JANE DOES 1-9,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

COLLINS MURPHY, LIMESTONE
COLLEGE, MINGEEK HOLDING
SARL a/k/a MINDEGEEK USA INC. a/k/a
MG HOLDINGS USA CORP., d/b/a
PORNHUB.COM, and HAMMY MEDIA
LTD. d/b/a XHAMSTER.COM,

Defendants.

Case No.: 7:20-cv-00947-TMC

AMENDED COMPLAINT
(Jury Trial Demanded)

The Plaintiffs, complaining of the Defendants, would respectfully show the Court the following:

INTRODUCTION

1. This is an action arising from Defendant Collins Murphy's (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant Murphy") intentional act of placing hidden spy cameras in the women's locker room. These spy cameras were used for the purpose of surreptitiously filming the Plaintiffs and other women in all stages of undress and then posting the video footage onto the Co-Defendants websites.
2. The failure of Defendant Limestone College to reasonably investigate Defendant Murphy throughout the hiring process, despite similar sexual allegations being made against Defendant Murphy prior to his hiring, which resulted in the invasion of privacy and emotional distress of the Plaintiffs.

3. And the deliberate motivation of Defendants MG Holdings USA, Corp. and Hammy Media Ltd. that lead to the creation of sexually lewd content for financial gain which resulted in the surreptitious filming of nine innocent girls who can never regain their innocence nor their peace of mind as naked images of them are now available on the internet.

PARTIES AND VENUE

4. Plaintiff, Jane Doe 1 (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff 1"), is and was at all times mentioned herein, a citizen and resident of Jeffersonville, Clark County, Indiana.

5. Plaintiff, Jane Doe 2 (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff 2"), is and was at all times mentioned herein, a citizen and resident of Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky.

6. Plaintiff, Jane Doe 3 (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff 3"), is and was at all times mentioned herein, a citizen and resident of Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky.

7. Plaintiff, Jane Doe 4 (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff 4"), is and was at all times mentioned herein, a citizen and resident of Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky.

8. Plaintiff, Jane Doe 5 (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff 5"), is and was at all times mentioned herein, a citizen and resident of Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky.

9. Plaintiff, Jane Doe 6 (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff 6"), is and was at all times mentioned herein, a citizen and resident of Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky.

10. Plaintiff, Jane Doe 7 (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff 7"), is and was at all times mentioned herein, a citizen and resident of Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky.

11. Plaintiff, Jane Doe 8 (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff 8"), is and was at all times mentioned herein, a citizen and resident of LaGrange, Oldham County, Kentucky.

12. Plaintiff, Jane Doe 9 (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff 9"), is and was at all times mentioned herein, a citizen and resident of San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

13. At present, and all times relevant to this action, Defendant Limestone College (hereinafter referred as “Defendant Limestone”) is a private co-ed liberal arts college located at 1115 College Drive, Gaffney, South Carolina 29340, and carries out its business by and through its agents, servants, and/or employees, and is therefore directly and vicariously liable for the wrongful acts described in this Complaint.

14. Defendant, Collins Murphy, is a citizen and resident of Rockville, Maryland. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant, Collins Murphy, was employed by Limestone College as its intramural/summer conference director.

15. Under the doctrine of *respondeat superior*, Defendant Limestone was and is responsible for the actions and conduct of Defendant Murphy done while employed by Limestone as its agent and employee and Defendants are thereby jointly and severally liable to Plaintiffs for their injuries and damages.

16. Defendant MindGeek SARL a/k/a MindGeek USA Inc. a/k/a MG Holdings USA Corp., d/b/a Pornhub.com (hereinafter referred to as “Defendant Pornhub”) is a Canadian company with headquarters located at 21800 Oxnard St., Suite 150, Woodland Hills, CA 91367.

17. Upon information and belief Defendant Pornhub endorses, coordinates, and participates in the creation of sexually lewd content and monetizes its creation through payment by ad revenues generated by said content to those who have conspired with them.

18. Upon information and belief Defendant Pornhub, since beginning the practice of paying for lewd content views, has received several takedown notices by women who did not consent to be filmed in content posted on their website.

19. Defendant Hammy Media Ltd. d/b/a xHamster.com (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant xHamster") is a pornographic media company that is headquartered at P.O. Box 59532, Limassol, 4010 Cyprus and has a US office in Houston Texas.

20. Upon information and belief, like Defendant Pornhub, Defendant xHamster endorses, coordinates, and participates in the creation of lewd sexual content by monetizing it through ad revenue payments made to those who have conspired with them.

21. Upon information and belief Defendant xHamster has received takedown notices by women who did not consent to be filmed in content present on their website.

22. Both Defendant Pornhub and Defendant xHamster have made purposeful electronic contacts with the State of South Carolina which resulted in a cause of action recognized by South Carolina.

23. Jurisdiction is proper in this Court as the matter in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs, and is between citizens of different States.

24. Venue is proper in this Court as a substantial part of the events complained of herein occurred in Gaffney, Cherokee County, South Carolina.

FACTS
(As to Defendant Limestone and Defendant Murphy)

25. All of the allegations previously set forth are incorporated herein by reference.

26. In August 2012 Limestone College hired Collins Murphy as its intramural/summer conference director.

27. On October 5, 2012, the Bellarmine University Knights traveled to Gaffney, South Carolina to face the Limestone College Saints in women's field hockey. Plaintiffs were members of the Bellarmine Knights field hockey team.

28. Upon arrival, Limestone College agents directed Plaintiffs to a men's locker room which was designated for their use both before and after the game.

29. While in the subject locker room, Plaintiffs showered and changed clothes such that they were in a state of nudity for periods of time.

30. Defendant Murphy, secretly placed a video camera in the subject locker room prior to Plaintiffs' arrival on campus and recorded the Plaintiffs, without their knowledge or consent, while they were in a state of nudity.

31. As intramural/summer conference director, Defendant Murphy, had knowledge of sporting events on campus and had access to athletic facilities, such as the subject locker room, with Limestone College's knowledge and consent.

32. Defendant Murphy, secretly recorded multiple women, including women who are not Plaintiffs in this action, changing clothes and taking showers in locker rooms between September 2012 and October 2013.

33. Defendant Murphy's employment with Limestone College ceased in October 2014.

34. At some point in 2019, the recordings of the Plaintiffs were uploaded and disseminated to countless pornographic websites, stripping the Plaintiffs of their innocence.

35. On October 10, 2019, the Gaffney Police Department opened an investigation into the illegal video recordings which took place on Limestone College's campus. Upon information and belief, the investigation remains ongoing.

36. On October 18, 2019, the Plaintiffs were first made aware that they were secretly videotaped while showering and changing their clothes in the Limestone College locker room; and that the recording was posted to several pornographic websites.

37. Upon information and belief Defendant Murphy continues to possess, upload, forward and/or disseminate the nude videos of Plaintiffs and other female student athletes obtained by the use of the hidden camera in the Limestone locker room facility.

38. Defendant Murphy maintained user accounts on both Pornhub and xHamster for many years.

39. Defendant Murphy developed a large following of thousands of viewers who would regularly subscribe and watch the content he generated and posted on both Pornhub and xHamster.

40. Defendant Murphy established these accounts and grew his following for the purpose of generating an income from creating lude sexual content that he filmed surreptitiously.

41. Defendant Murphy regularly engaged in the surreptitious filming of women by spy camera to add to his catalog of content on the accounts found on both Pornhub and xHamster.

42. Defendant Murphy gained an income from the content he provided on his accounts on the Pornhub and xHamster websites.

43. Defendant Limestone failed to meet their duty owed to its students and those visiting when it failed to properly investigate Defendant Murphy during the hiring process.

44. As a direct and proximate result of the secret and unauthorized videotaping, and the dissemination and publishing of the videos to other individuals and the general public on the Pornhub.com and other pornographic websites, Plaintiffs have sustained, and will continue to sustain, injuries and damages, including but not limited to anxiety, humiliation, embarrassment, serious mental and emotional distress and mental pain and suffering.

FACTS
(As to Defendant Pornhub and Defendant xHamster)

45. Upon information and belief both Defendant Pornhub and Defendant xHamster promote the creation of lewd sexual content by providing payment to those who submit such media to their website.

46. This lewd sexual content increases the viewership to their respective platforms which increases their own financial gain.

47. Upon information and belief Defendant Pornhub and Defendant xHamster individually schemed to increase their financial positions by enlisting others to create sexually deviant content and shared the revenues such content generated with the providers.

48. This scheme created a joint venture partnership and civil conspiracy between Defendants and the individuals who provided the Defendants with the lewd, sexual, and pornographic content which the Defendants used to make money and removes any protections granted to them as they are no longer merely hosts of said content.

49. But for the Defendants monetization of the creation of “homemade/ spy cam” style lewd content, such content would likely have not been so heavily sought after.

50. Upon information and belief the Defendants, after starting this practice, have received takedown notices by women who appeared on their websites but never consented to being filmed.

51. Despite these takedown notices, which gave Defendant Pornhub and Defendant xHamster adequate notice of apparent issues involving their content, took no steps to mitigate the exposure of women even though they knew or should have known that the content they were being provided was filmed surreptitiously and without consent.

52. Defendant Pornhub and Defendant xHamster, made no further efforts to monitor the uploads onto their websites despite a duty being created by the several takedown notices received.

53. Upon information and belief Defendant Pornhub and Defendant xHamster provided payment to Defendant Murphy in exchange for the content he posted on his accounts found on their respective websites.

54. Defendant Pornhub and Defendant xHamster rewarded Defendant Murphy for developing a large internet following for the purpose of making money and sharing spy camera footage of women without their consent.

55. The content Defendant Murphy made an income from was similar to the content that both Defendant Pornhub and Defendant xHamster had previously received takedown notices for but they chose to ignore their similarity.

56. By actively ignoring the trend that such takedown notices made aware to them, and by continuing to endorse and encourage the creation of such surreptitious sexual content, Defendant Pornhub and Defendant xHamster enabled the Plaintiffs to be harmed by Defendant Murphy.

57. Defendant Pornhub and Defendant xHamster normalized the invasion of privacy conducted by their agent Defendant Murphy by creating an avenue for which he could be compensated for the uploading of such media.

58. Defendant Pornhub and Defendant xHamster painted the Plaintiffs in a false light by allowing them to be present on their websites, permanently damaging their self-esteem, marital relationships, and the reputation.

59. Defendant Pornhub's and Defendant xHamster's conduct in allowing those they have conspired with to upload sexually deviant media under the names "spy cam" or "hidden cam", without properly ensuring such content was created with authorization despite receiving several takedown notices from women who did not consent to similar content, both were the direct and proximate cause of the injuries suffered by the Plaintiffs.

FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST DEFENDANTS
(Invasion of Privacy – Wrongful Intrusion upon Private Affairs)

60. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and reasserts all previous allegations contained in this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

61. Defendant Murphy, in his capacity as an employee and agent of Defendant Limestone, was given access to and/or control over the locker room facilities at Limestone.

62. Utilizing that access, Defendant Murphy placed a hidden video camera in Defendant Limestone's locker room and captured video and images of the Plaintiffs their teammates, and other student athletes from around the nation, all while they were fully nude, or in various stages of undress.

63. The secret and unauthorized videotaping by Defendant Murphy of the Plaintiffs and the other student athletes constitutes an intrusion in to the private affairs of the Plaintiffs and the other women.

64. The intrusion was and is highly offensive, substantial and unreasonable to a reasonable person such that it constitutes a blatant and shocking disregard of Plaintiffs' rights.

65. The secret and unauthorized videotaping by Defendant Murphy was intentional.

66. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct by Defendants, the Plaintiffs have sustained the injuries and damages referenced above, including serious mental and emotional injuries and distress.

67. The conduct by Defendants was a willful and wanton violation of the privacy rights of the Plaintiffs and the other student athletes, such that the Plaintiffs are entitled to an award of punitive damages.

FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST DEFENDANTS
(Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress)

68. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and reasserts all previous allegations contained in this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

69. The conduct of Defendant Murphy in secretly videotaping the Plaintiffs and the other student athletes while totally nude, or in various stages of undress, was done intentionally to inflict severe emotional distress on the Plaintiffs and/or Defendants knew that such distress would likely result from such conduct.

70. Defendants' conduct was so extreme and outrageous that it exceeded all possible bounds of decency and was furthermore atrocious and utterly intolerable in a civilized community.

71. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, the Plaintiffs have suffered, and continue to suffer, severe emotional distress.

72. The emotional distress caused by Defendant's wrongful conduct was, and is, so severe such that no reasonable person could be expected to endure it.

73. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' wrongful and unlawful conduct, the Plaintiffs have sustained the injuries and damages referenced above, including serious mental and emotional injuries and distress.

74. The wrongful conduct by Defendants was willful, wanton and undertaken in reckless disregard for the privacy rights of the Plaintiffs and the other student athletes, such that the Plaintiffs are entitled to an award of **PUNITIVE** damages.

FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST DEFENDANTS
(Negligent Hiring – Defendant Limestone)

75. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and reasserts all previous allegations contained in this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

76. Prior to being hired by Defendant Limestone, allegations of misconduct were made against Defendant Murphy.

77. The existence of these allegations gave notice to Defendant Limestone that there may be a potential undue risk presented to students in hiring Defendant Murphy.

78. The risk of Defendant Murphy could have been discovered through a reasonable investigation.

79. Defendant Limestone breached their duty by either failing to conduct a reasonable investigation into Defendant Murphy prior to hiring him, or by hiring Defendant Murphy despite being on notice that he presented a potential undue risk to female students.

80. This negligent hiring of Defendant Murphy by Defendant Limestone was the direct and proximate cause of the Plaintiffs' injuries.

FOR A FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST DEFENDANTS
(Negligent Supervision – Defendant Limestone)

81. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and reasserts all previous allegations contained in this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

82. Defendant Limestone had a duty of care to supervise its employees who had access to areas in which individual's privacy could be violated.

83. Defendant Limestone breached this duty by its failure to supervise Defendant Murphy who had access to the women's locker rooms and other facilities on campus.

84. Defendant Murphy was acting within the scope of his employment when entering, or accessing the women's locker rooms, and thus Defendant Limestone was able to control or supervise his conduct.

85. Defendant Limestone knew or should have known that having access to women's locker rooms presented a foreseeable risk to privacy.

86. Defendant Limestone's failure to supervise Defendant Murphy enabled the placement of hidden cameras used to videotape the Plaintiffs while nude or in the stages of undress.

87. Thus, the unfettered and unsupervised access to locker room facilities by Defendant Murphy was the result of Defendant Limestone's negligent supervision and is the direct and proximate cause of the Plaintiffs' injuries.

FOR A FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST DEFENDANTS
(Negligent Monitoring – Defendant Pornhub and Defendant xHamster)

88. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and reasserts all previous allegations contained in this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

89. Defendant Pornhub and Defendant xHamster both operate and maintain pornographic websites.

90. In maintaining such websites, Defendant Pornhub and Defendant xHamster have received takedown notices by viewers who have indicated that content present on their respective websites were obtained illegally or contained illegal images.

91. Such notices gave Defendant Pornhub and Defendant xHamster notice of various issues regarding their websites and created a duty owed to viewers and users of their websites to properly monitor their content.

92. Defendant Pornhub and Defendant xHamster breached this duty when they failed to take reasonable steps to monitor the content present on their websites.

93. This breach in failing to reasonably monitor content on their websites resulted in the presence of illegally filmed pornographic content being present on their websites respectively.

94. This failure to reasonably monitor was the direct and proximate cause of the injuries suffered by the Plaintiffs.

FOR A SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST DEFENDANTS
(False Light – Defendant Pornhub and Defendant xHamster)

95. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and reasserts all previous allegations contained in this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

96. Defendant Pornhub and Defendant xHamster both operate and maintain pornographic websites.

97. Both Defendants websites hosted videos of the Plaintiffs which exposed them in the various stages of undress and revealed their nude presence to numerous viewers under the guise of a “spy cam” or “hidden cam” porn film.

98. These videos portray the Plaintiffs as sexual deviants/pornstars which the Plaintiffs are not as the videos were recorded surreptitiously.

99. These videos of the Plaintiffs are highly offensive and embarrassing and has resulted in permanent mental anguish in the Plaintiffs.

100. The Defendants took no steps in verifying whether the videos were filmed with the consent of the girls, thus shared these videos with a reckless and wanton disregard for their offensiveness.

101. This reckless and wanton disregard depicted the Plaintiffs in a false light and is the direct and proximate cause of their injuries.

FOR A SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST THE DEFENDANTS
(Civil Conspiracy- against Defendant Murphy and Defendant Pornhub)

102. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and reasserts all previous allegations contained in this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

103. The Defendants conspired for the purpose of creating sexually lewd content which directly invaded the Plaintiffs' rights to privacy guaranteed by the United States Constitution. More particularly, the Plaintiffs have been harmed as a direct and proximate result.

104. During period alleged in this Complaint, defendants engaged in a plan, scheme, conspiracy and course of conduct, pursuant to which they knowingly or recklessly engaged in acts, transactions, practices and courses of business which resulted in the surreptitious and illegal filming of the Plaintiffs. Such scheme was intended to, and, throughout timeframe alleged in this Complaint, did create content that was published on the Defendant Pornhub's website which exposed Plaintiffs to viewers on the internet for profit.

105. As a direct and proximate result of the improper actions of the Defendants, Plaintiffs have been damaged in **ACTUAL, CONSEQUENTIAL AND PUNITIVE DAMAGES.**

FOR A EIGTH CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST THE DEFENDANTS
(Civil Conspiracy- against Defendant Murphy and Defendant xHamster)

106. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and reasserts all previous allegations contained in this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

107. The Defendants conspired for the purpose of creating sexually lewd content which directly invaded the Plaintiffs' rights to privacy guaranteed by the United States Constitution. More particularly, the Plaintiffs have been harmed as a direct and proximate result.

108. During period alleged in this Complaint, defendants engaged in a plan, scheme,

conspiracy and course of conduct, pursuant to which they knowingly or recklessly engaged in acts, transactions, practices and courses of business which resulted in the surreptitious and illegal filming of the Plaintiffs. Such scheme was intended to, and, throughout timeframe alleged in this Complaint, did create content that was published on the Defendant xHamster's website which exposed Plaintiffs to viewers on the internet for profit.

109. As a direct and proximate result of the improper actions of the Defendants, Plaintiffs have been damaged in **ACTUAL, CONSEQUENTIAL AND PUNITIVE DAMAGES.**

DAMAGES

110. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence, gross negligence, recklessness, willfulness and wantonness of the Defendants herein, Plaintiffs suffered injuries including, but not limited to:

1. mental pain and anguish.
2. loss of quality in the marital relationship.
3. humiliation and embarrassment.

PRAYERS FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against each of the Defendants **Jointly and Severally**:

- A. for actual and consequential damages, including damages for emotional distress, pain and suffering, in an amount to be determined at trial;
- B. for punitive damages;
- C. special damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
- C. such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL LEGAL GROUP, LLC

s/J. Edward Bell, III

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